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USS Osprey welcomes new CO

Command of coastal mine hunter USS Osprey (MHC 51) will change hands Friday, September 24, at 10 a.m., when Lt. Cmdr. Dan A. Starling turns over the helm to Lt. Cmdr. Derek A. Trinke. Capt. Robert F. Riehl, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron One, will be the guest speaker.

Lt. Cmdr. Trinke graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1992, with a bachelor of science degree in political science. His initial sea assignment was as anti-submarine warfare officer, gunnery and ordnance officer, assistant operations officer, and assistant engineer officer aboard USS Philippine Sea (CG 58).

Ashore, Lt. Cmdr. Trinke taught seamanship and navigation at the U.S. Naval Academy and served as officer-in-charge of the Academy's 108-foot Yard Patrol craft during midshipmen training cruises.

Following department head training, Lt. Cmdr. Trinke reported to USS Cole (DDG 67) as the operations officer. During this tour, Cole deployed to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas, and was en route to the Arabian Gulf when a terrorist attack cut the ship's deployment short. He then reported to USS Normandy (CG 60) as operations officer.

Lt. Cmdr. Trinke has earned masters degrees from the University of Maryland and the U.S. Naval War College.

Lt. Cmdr. Starling took command of Osprey in September 2002, less than two weeks before deployment along the East Coast to New York City, which was highlighted by a rescue of four Cuban refugees from a sinking boat in waters off the Florida Keys. Under his command, Osprey has excelled with accomplishments including three Maritime Warfare Excellence Awards, three Logistics Management Excellence Awards, two Engineering/Survivability Excellence Awards, Type Commander (TYCOM) Safety Award, and Golden Anchor Award.

Lt. Cmdr. Starling's next assignment is as Commanding Officer, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Austin, Texas.

USS Osprey is the lead ship in the Osprey Class of coastal mine hunters, which are the world's largest glass reinforced plastic ships. Osprey's mission is to clear harbor, coastal, and ocean waters of acoustic, magnetic, pressure and contact-type mines, utilizing reconnaissance, classification, and neutralization tactics. The MHC Class design integrates modern mine countermeasures technology into a uniquely designed platform with exceptionally low magnetic signatures to protect against mine detonations during minehunting operations. The ship is homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.